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Appl. No.: 10/524,710

Amdt. Dated March 19, 2008

Response to Office Action Mailed January 25, 2008

**REMARKS:**

Applicant appreciates the time and care the examiner has taken in examining the application. In the amendment above, the features of claim 4 have been added to claim 1, and claim 4 has been cancelled. Applicant requests reconsideration of the final rejection of the claims, and states the following in support. For the sake of brevity, arguments in all prior responses to office actions in this application are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

The driver structure as set forth in amended claim 1 comprises a middle projection provided on the blade edge between the projections of the second pair of projections, to hold the crown of the staple when the pair of leg portions pass through the bundle of papers, and further, this middle projection comprises a crown pressing portion to press the crown. It is submitted that taken either alone or together, the cited references, namely, the prior art cited in the specification, fail to adequately disclose such features so as to render the claimed combination obvious. In particular, it is submitted that the crown pressing portion is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. No *prima facie* case of obviousness of claim 1 as amended has been established. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for prompt allowance and that all of the objections, rejections and requirements raised in the Office action have been met. Early, favorable treatment of this application is requested.

The examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned with any questions or comments so that efforts may be made to resolve any remaining issues.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including fees for any necessary extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) for filing this communication, which extension is hereby requested, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305 of Chapman and Cutler LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

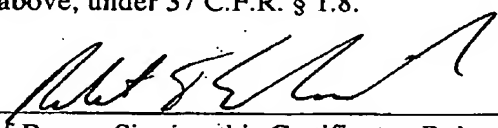
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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

Attorney Docket Number: 1716299  
App. Serial No.: 10/524,710  
Date of Facsimile Transmission: March 19, 2008  
Transmitted to Facsimile No.: 1-571-273-8300

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence, namely: Response to Final Office Action, was transmitted by facsimile on the date listed above, to the U.S. Patent Office at the facsimile number listed above, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.

Signature: 

Typed Name of Person Signing this Certificate: Robert J. Schneider

Date of Signature: March 19, 2008